

This Week In Agriculture

May 8, 2006

May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Upcoming events

May 15 is the deadline to submit comments to Director Takasugi on the disposal of crop residue. (See page 2 for more information)

May 15 is the deadline to apply for Eurasian Water-milfoil grants from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Go to <http://www.idahoag.us>.

ISDA Director Pat Takasugi is in Chicago where he has presided over meetings on Farm Bill 2007 and participated in meetings of the Food Marketing Institute.

This Week in Agriculture is a publication of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

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ISDA, USDA continue potato cyst nematode survey

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are continuing to collect soil samples from fields in eastern Idaho.

The soil sampling is in response to the discovery of potato cyst nematode in tare dirt taken from a potato grading station. Soil sampling is the process for identifying the original source of the potato cyst nematode found in Idaho, but ISDA and USDA scientists have yet to find additional nematodes.

The potato cyst nematode is a major pest of potato crops in cool-temperate areas, and is recognized as one of the most difficult potato pests to control. The potato cyst nematode has a very narrow host range including potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant, and some weeds.

While the potato cyst nematode can reduce potato yields, it does not affect the quality of the potato, does not enter the tuber and poses no risk to human health.



Bagged soil samples collected at an eastern Idaho potato field.



The Idaho State Department of Agriculture collected unusable pesticides at several sites around the state last week. These pictures are from the pesticide collection at the Canyon County landfill.



Public notice

Opportunity to provide written submissions or documents

The Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture intends to issue a determination pursuant to Idaho Code § 22-4803(1) concerning economically viable alternatives to thermal disposal of crop residue. In accordance with the requirements of § 22-4803(1), the Director will determine whether economically viable alternatives exist to burning for the purpose of (1) disposing of crop residues, (2) developing physiological conditions conducive to increased crop yields, or (3) controlling diseases, insects, pests or weed infestations.

Written or electronic submissions of documents pertaining to the determination will be considered by the Director if received by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, May 15, 2006. Any such items should be addressed or delivered to the attention of:

Patrick A. Takasugi
Director
Idaho State Department
of Agriculture
P.O. Box 790
2270 Old Penitentiary Rd
Boise, Idaho 83712

Email:
asmp@agri.state.id.us

House conducts hearing on trade with Mexico, Canada

At the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Chairman Dan Burton (R-Ind.) urged the deepening of ties with Mexico in order to effectively resolve issues such as illegal immigration, narcotics trafficking, and border security. John Melle of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative testified concerning the importance of agricultural trade between the U.S. and

Mexico. "Many of the most impressive export successes for the United States are [agricultural] . . . Due in part to the preferential access we have under the NAFTA." He further stressed that continued coordination between the two countries will do much to address challenges such as implementation of the remaining NAFTA commitments, changes in global trade, and security issues. These state-

ments highlight the importance of the upcoming Tri-National Agricultural Accord meeting to be held August 9 to 12 in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

The meeting will bring together Mexico's state secretaries of agriculture, Canada's provincial ministers of agriculture, and NASDA members. For more information visit the Accord website at <http://www.nasda.org/Accord>.

Idaho-Oregon onion group creates 'sweet' new logo

As part of an ongoing strategy to capture more market share for yellow, white and red onions, the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee (IEOOC) has announced the use of a new logo and a reintroduction of the word "sweet" in the onion trade name. Formerly IEO Spanish Onions, the Committee will use the name "Spanish Sweet Onions" with a new logo design. A new tag line, "Sweet with Heat" will also be used in conjunction with the logo.

After a four month name search contest, the IEOOC awarded Marc Bybee of Nyssa, Oregon, \$250 for submitting the name "Spanish Sweet Onions." Using the new name, the IEOOC designed a logo that combines a jazzed up version of an Idaho map with an onion shape that represents the growing region: Malheur County, Oregon and Southwest and South Central Idaho. "A very significant

number of onions are grown in Malheur County, Oregon," said Sherise Jones, IEOOC Marketing Director. "However, since our onions are often confused with Oregon onions grown outside our official region, it wasn't prudent to include the entire state of Oregon in the logo. We believe, by using an Idaho map and our signature onion shape as a representation of our entire growing area, we can alleviate any misconception while marketing an attractive logo with great consumer appeal."

The reintroduction of the word "sweet" in the new "Spanish Sweet Onions" name goes back to the IEOOC's initial marketing roots. During earlier years, the IEOOC had used the name "Spanish Sweets" to communicate the

onions' sweet attributes. However, in recent years, marketing and promotion efforts had been placed on branding the re-



gion's high percentage of Jumbo and Colossal onions to include the fact that our onions have very high sugar levels and are second-to-none in cooked recipes.